

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 10, 2006. Claims 1 to 5, 8 to 15, 16 to 20, 23 to 29, 35 and 36 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 16, 31 and 37 to 39 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 8, 10 to 14, 16 to 20, 23, 25 to 29, 31, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,978,299 (Lodwick). Claims 9 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lodwick in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,407 (Smith). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns issuing reference information corresponding to held print data to a plurality of printing apparatuses. In one embodiment of the invention, the reference information is sent to the plural printers, and then the print data is sent to the printer which first requested to acquire the relevant print data. Therefore, a printing apparatus in accordance with the present invention which can rapidly start a print process can be precisely selected as it was the apparatus which responded first. In this manner, in a system in accordance with the present invention, it is possible to easily select the printer which can start the print process immediately.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes a holding unit adapted to hold print data; an issuing unit adapted to issue reference information corresponding to the print data held by the holding unit, to both of a first printing apparatus and a second printing apparatus; and a transmission control unit adapted to control to transmit the print data to the first printing apparatus and not to transmit the print data to the second printing apparatus, in a case where an

acquisition request of the print data transmitted from the first printing apparatus based on the reference information is received prior to an acquisition request of the print data transmitted from the second printing apparatus based on the reference information.

Newly-added independent Claim 37 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes a holding unit adapted to hold print data; an issuing unit adapted to issue reference information corresponding to the print data held by the holding unit, to a plurality of printing apparatuses; a receiving unit adapted to receive an acquisition request of the print data, transmitted from any of the plurality of printing apparatuses based on the reference information; a judging unit adapted to judge whether or not the acquisition request received by the receiving unit is the acquisition request first received in regard to the print data; and a transmission control unit adapted to transmit the print data to a print apparatus which transmitted the acquisition request in a case where it is judged by the judging unit that the received acquisition request is the first-received acquisition request, and not to transmit the print data to the print apparatus which transmitted the acquisition request in a case where it is not judged by the judging unit that the received acquisition request is the first-received acquisition request.

In contrast, Lodwick discloses that a polling device acquires print data from a spooling server and thus causes a printer to print the acquired print data. However, Lodwick fails to disclose at least the feature of transmitting the print data to the first printing apparatus and not to transmit the print data to the second printing apparatus, in a case where an acquisition request of the print data transmitted from the first printing apparatus based on the reference information is received prior to an acquisition request of the print data transmitted from the second printing apparatus based on the reference information as featured in Claim 1.

In addition, Lodwick does not disclose or suggest judging whether or not the acquisition request received is the acquisition request first received in regard to the print data as featured in Claim 37. This is because, as Lodwick, only discloses a single polling device, a system in accordance with the disclosures of Lodwick does not need to take into account of from which of a plural polling devices the print data acquisition request was first sent.

Moreover, Lodwick does not disclose controlling so as not to transmit the print data to the print apparatus which later transmitted the acquisition request as featured in Claim 37. As a result, even if there are plural polling devices in a system, the print data is sent to the plural polling devices whereby unnecessary printing operations are executed.

Furthermore, Smith discloses a server which stores a document transmitted from a sender. The server generates a private URL for the sender, and transmits the generated private URL to another apparatus. Smith further discloses that the other apparatus accesses the server by using the transmitted private URL to acquire the document transmitted from the sender. However, nothing in Smith is seen to disclose that which is missing from Lodwick in regard to either Claim 1 or Claim 37.

As neither Lodwick nor Smith, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 1 or all of the features of Claim 37 as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended Claim 1 and new Claim 37 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 16 and 31 are directed to a method and computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 16 and 31 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

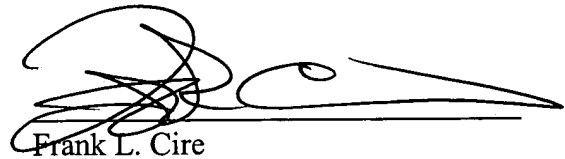
New Claims 38 and 39 are directed to a method and computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 37. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 38 and 39 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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